

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MEXICO 08662 110014Z

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ACTION SS-30

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4276

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 8662

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCON OVIP CPRS MX

SUBJ: TOPICS FOR PRESIDENTIAL MEETING: MISTREATMENT OF
U.S. PRISONERS IN MEXICO

1. BACKGROUND: IN PAST YEAR NUMBER OF U.S. PRISONERS IN MEXICAN JAILS HAS DOUBLED, WITH TOTAL NOW STANDING AT OVER 500. MOST OF THESE PRISONERS INVOLVED IN DRUG TRAFFICKING OR POSSESSION. NUMEROUS ALLEGATIONS AND COMPLAINTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED THAT AT TIME OF ARREST MANY OF THESE PEOPLE WERE SUBJECT TO PHYSICAL ABUSE AND TORTURE. IN ADDITION, AMPLE EVIDENCE EXISTS THAT THEIR RIGHTS UNDER CONSULAR CONVENTION BETWEEN MEXICO AND U.S. WERE, IN MANY CASES, DENIED IN THAT THEY WERE NOT PERMITTED TO COMMUNICATE WITH U.S. CONSULAR REPRESENTATIVE AND WERE HELD INCOMMUNICADO UNDULY LONG PERIODS OF TIME. EMBASSY IS PROTESTING SUCH CASES VIGOROUSLY WHEN THEY ARISE.

2. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT CONGRESSIONAL PRESSURE MAY BE EXERTED TO INCLUDE ABOVE SUBJECT IN AGENDA. WE DO NOT RECOMMEND THAT THIS TOPIC BE SO INCLUDED, BUT PRESIDENT FORD POSSIBLY SHOULD CONSIDER ALLEGATIONS OF MISTREATMENT OF U.S. PRISONERS AS A COUNTERPOINT IN UNLIKELY EVENT ECHEVERRIA BRINGS UP ALLEGED MISTREATMENT OF MEXICAN DEPORTEES.

3. HOWEVER, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT UNDUE EMPHASIS ON THIS SUBJECT POSSIBLY MIGHT LESSON MEXICAN ENTHUSIASM FOR DRUG ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.

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